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Attorney Docket No. **P50523-C2**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Marquis, et al.

Continuation of: 09/658,256

Filed: Herewith

For: **INHIBITORS OF CYSTEINE PROTEASE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to calculating filing fees and examining this application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please insert the attached 2 page abstract, following the claims. *N/E*

In the Claims:

18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Cancel claims 26-33.

REMARKS

An abstract on a separate sheet is attached as required under 37 CFR 1.72(b).
Claim 18 has been amended so that the claim set complies with the proper U.S. claim format. Entry of this preliminary amendment into the record is requested.